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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

20 DECEMBER 2018

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – Border Patrol Agents Shut Down Tunnel Construction at Border with Mexico

(U) Tucson – Border Patrol agents foiled the construction of a cross-border tunnel for smuggling contraband that was discovered during a tunnel sweep in cooperation with Mexican law enforcement. The tunnel was about 50 feet long and 2 feet wide by 2 feet tall, and while it was incomplete, it was apparently designed for smuggling, according to officials. Most of it, about 44 feet, was on the US side of the border.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [Washington Free Beacon](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – NASA Hack Exposes Space Agency Staff's Data

(U) Washington – NASA has emailed its staff to warn them that hackers may have stolen their personal details. The message said it suspected that two of its servers containing details of past and present employees had been compromised. It added that it did not believe any NASA mission had been put in jeopardy. One expert noted that this was the latest in a series of breaches experienced by the space agency to have been made public since 2011. The email added that social security numbers and other private information belonging to civil service employees of the agency who had worked for it since July 2006 might have been affected.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [BBC](#)

(U) District of Columbia – US to Unseal Criminal Charges against Chinese Intelligence Officers

(U) Washington – The US Justice Department is expected to unseal criminal charges Thursday against Chinese intelligence officers allegedly tied to a persistent campaign to hack into technology-service providers, according to people familiar with the matter. The Trump administration will also formally accuse China of violating a 2015 bilateral agreement under which both countries vowed to not engage in state-sponsored hacking for economic gain. The moves mark the latest push by the Trump administration to punish Beijing for its alleged cyberattacks on American companies.

SOURCE: 20 December 2018, [WSJ](#)

(U) New York – Terrorist Targeting NYC Gets Forty Years for Foiled Plot

(U) New York City – One of three men who plotted terrorist attacks in New York City in the name of ISIS, setting their sights on Times Square, subway stations and concert venues, has been sentenced to 40 years in prison. Abdulrahman El Bahnasawy, 20, a Canadian citizen, planned to detonate explosive devices in Times Square and the subway system, and shoot people gathered at concerts, according to Southern District of New York US Attorney's Office. El Bahnasawy bought bomb-making materials but was arrested in May 2016 after traveling from Canada to New Jersey to stage the attacks, authorities said.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [CBS News](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) France – Returning Jihadists 'Threaten New Wave of Terror in Europe'**

(U) Lyon – Europe is facing a new wave of terrorism as radicalized individuals return and jihadists are released from jail, the general secretary of Interpol has warned. Europe may face a second wave of other Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) linked or radicalized individuals officials are calling “ISIS 2.0.” Europe, and particularly France, has had a series of serious Islamist-linked terror attacks since 2014, including the assaults that killed 130 people in Paris in November 2015.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [Guardian](#)

(U) Morocco – Backpackers Killed Were ‘Executed By Terrorists,’ Security Sources Say

(U) The attack on the two Scandinavian backpackers in Morocco could have had a terrorism motive, according to reports. Louisa Vesterager Jespersen, 24, from Denmark, and Maren Ueland, 28, from Norway, were brutally murdered while camping in the Atlas mountains. A day after arresting the first suspects authorities believe the horrifying attack bears some of the hallmarks of terrorism. The killers filmed the vile slaying and a video of the incident is circulating on Moroccan social media sparking outrage in the country, according to open-source reporting.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [Fox News](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Flights Suspended at Airport After Reports of Drones

(U) London – Flights at London’s Gatwick airport remained suspended five hours after the UK’S second-busiest airport halted them to investigate reports of two drones flying over its airfield, inconveniencing passengers days before the Christmas holiday period. Planes were unable to depart, while a number of flights scheduled to land were diverted to other airports, Gatwick said in a statement. Gatwick apologized to affected passengers, adding that safety was its “foremost priority.”

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [Guardian](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Uber Driver Caught With Weapon at Buckingham Palace Cleared of Terrorism

(U) An Uber driver caught with a samurai sword outside Buckingham Palace has been cleared of terrorism charges after claiming he was depressed. Mohiussunnath Chowdhury, 27, of Luton, Bedfordshire, was unanimously acquitted by jurors at the Old Bailey of one allegation of preparing acts of terrorism after a retrial. Chowdhury told jurors he only wanted to be killed by police and had no intention to hurt anyone himself. Chowdhury had driven his blue Toyota Prius at a marked police van before officers sprayed him with CS gas when they saw him in his car with the deadly weapon.

SOURCE: 19 December 2018, [Mirror UK](#)

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